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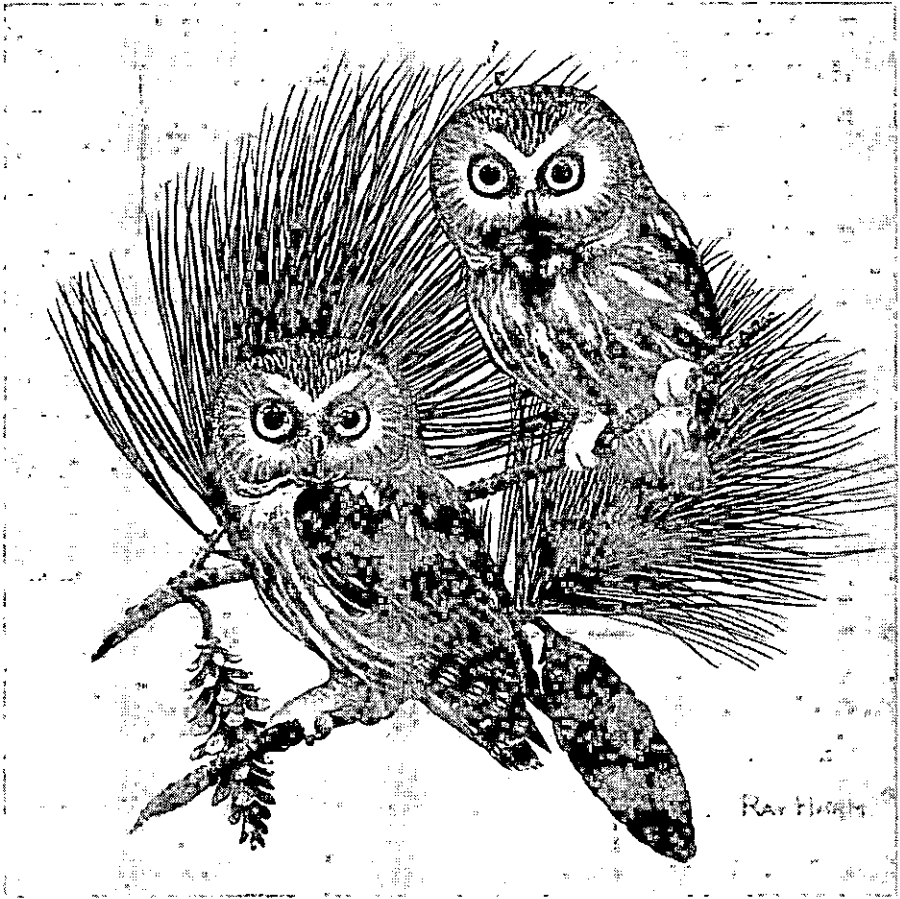
The Kentucky Warbler

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OUR COVER

We are indebted to our staff artist, Ray Harm, for the excellent reproduction of the Saw-whet Owl.

WESTERN KENTUCKY OBSERVATIONS

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR. AND ALAN BARRON

During the past year and a half, we have had the opportunity to make a number of trips to the Jackson Purchase region of the state. Below is a summary of observations that have been made with comments on identification, habitats, and status of birds when appropriate.

The avifauna of this area has been discussed by Mengel (1965), Croft and Rowe (1966), Able (1967), and Gray (1967). Part of the purpose of this article will be to provide comparisons between what was observed by them and what we observed some fifteen to twenty years later.

On June 3-5, 1980, Palmer-Ball made an initial trip to McCracken and Ballard Counties accompanying Dr. Stuart Neff and Paul Barker of the Water Resources Laboratory of the University of Louisville in preparation for field work to be done for the Corps of Engineers.

On June 3rd, approximately 15 Black Terns (*Chlidonias niger*) were observed off the downtown boat ramp at Paducah as they hawked for prey over the water with scores of swallows. These birds were presumed to be late migrants since Mengel gives June 16 as a late date for spring migrants.

On June 4th, a single Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) was observed along the Kentucky bank of the Ohio River across from Cairo, Illinois.

On all three days many Barn Swallows (*Riparia riparia*) and Tree Swallows (*Iridoprocne bicolor*) were observed in the two counties. Bank Swallows were present along virtually the entire stretch of the Ohio River that was visited between Paducah and Cairo, and they seemed to be utilizing every suitable portion of the bank for nesting in this stretch. Colonies were specifically located within two miles upstream and downstream from the Paducah boat ramp and at Turner's Landing on the Ballard County Wildlife Management Area (hereafter BCMWA). Mengel listed only three known breeding colonies of this species in the state, the closest being in Union County. Tree Swallows were observed flying over the Ohio River in small groups, but most were encountered over the sloughs and ponds on the BCMWA. Here they were nesting quite commonly and several nest cavities were located. Birds observed along the river were probably nesting in dead trees along the bank. Mengel did not find Tree Swallows nesting in the purchase region in his field work of 1947-51, nor did Croft, Rowe, and Able. This population is certainly a part of the recent southward range expansion that has taken place throughout the state.

From June 17-22, 1980, Palmer-Ball and Alan Barron returned to this area to complete a study of the breeding birds of the area for the Corps of Engineers. The study area included only the areas immediately adjacent to the Ohio River, but two side trips were taken to the Mississippi flood plain of Fulton and Hickman Counties.

Both Little Blue Herons (*Florida caerulea*) and Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*) proved to be quite common on the BCMWA and both species were suspected of nesting in the immediate vicinity; however, other than their presence at this time of the year, no evidence could be found of nesting.

Twice we observed female Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) on sloughs of the BCWMA, and it is likely that this species is a fairly common nester in this area. A group of five females or immatures near Lake No. 9 in Fulton County on June 19th probably indicated breeding in that area. Able also reported this species from Fulton County, perhaps from the same slough, while Mengel listed scattered summer reports of the species, but only Louisville for positive nesting.

On June 18th, a Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) was heard singing in a dense thicket alongside a backwater slough in Ballard County near the U.S.-51/62 bridge to Cairo, Illinois. Mengel listed no definite summer records for this species from the Jackson Purchase.

Once again Tree Swallows were observed over many of the sloughs on the BCWMA. At least two groups of fledged young being out of the nest were observed.

The many dead and dying trees in the sloughs provided limitless habitat for cavity nesting species, and all of the nesting woodpeckers, especially Red-headed Woodpeckers (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), were found in good numbers in this habitat. In addition, other cavity nesters like the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*), Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmouse (*P. bicolor*), and White-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis*) were widespread as nesting species in these areas. Even the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), a species which seems to have shifted almost entirely to human structures for nesting, was suspected of nesting in natural cavities because of their constant association with this slough habitat, especially since there were very few houses and other buildings in the vicinity.

Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) were observed frequently in the floodplain forests of the study area. This species probably approaches its maximum breeding density in the wet woods along the Ohio River.

Several small groups of Mississippi Kites were observed in Hickman and Fulton Counties on June 18 and 19. The Chalk Bluff Road in Hickman County and the levee road just north of the Tennessee line in Fulton County were the best spots for observing this beautiful species. The range of the Mississippi Kite does not seem to have expanded since its reappearance in the state in the late sixties.

No nesting colonies of Least Terns (*Sterna albifrons*) were located but at least four adult birds were observed feeding over sloughs along the Mississippi River in Fulton County at the Lake No. 9 pumping station. The large sandbars along the Mississippi River in Fulton and Hickman Counties should still be supporting small numbers of nesting birds as Mengel reported.

On June 20 and 21 at least four singing male Bell's Vireos (*Vireo bellii*) were found in McCracken County, two on the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, and two just south of the Shawnee Steam Plant settling basins. Charles P. Nicholson reported (1981) two pairs on territory, and one nest located on June 26, 1980, approximately one-half mile from the site where we found two of the singing males near the Shawnee Steam Plant. We had searched for several hours on both days, and although all four males seemed very territorial, we found no evidence of the presence of females, and the only nest we could locate was one that a male had nearly completed, seemingly, by himself. This population, although its status seems uncertain, represents the first summering birds in the state.

The nest that we located was approximately 3½ feet off the ground and suspended between two twigs of a sumac bush. The habitat in both spots where Bell's Vireos were seen was overgrown fields with a spotting of dense stands of sumac, saplings, and briars. Other characteristic breeding species in this habitat were Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*), Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), and Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). Interestingly, we did not note any White-eyed Vireos (*Vireo griseus*) in the immediate vicinity of the Bell's Vireos.

On August 23, 1980, Palmer-Ball, Barron, and Alan Temple visited Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle, and Ballard Counties in search of migrant shorebirds. Reward came in the form of two very large flocks of mixed waterbirds, one at Lake No. 9 in Fulton County, and the other on the BCWMA where most of the birds were concentrated on Mitchell Lake. Both lakes were at low levels because of a dry summer and provided excellent shallow pools and mudflats on which the shorebirds were feeding. Although no "surprises" were discovered, the shorebird flocks were the largest any of us had seen in the state and were strikingly similar to those reported by Able and Gray. Table 1 summarizes the waterbirds observed at these two spots.

Also quite conspicuous were the numbers of swallows which were gathering in large groups, especially on the power lines in the flood-plain in Fulton County near the levee. These flocks of hundreds of birds were very similar to those described by Able with many Rough-winged (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) and Tree Swallows.

Mississippi Kites were still present along the levee in Fulton County where at least six were observed sailing over the cottonwoods along the Mississippi River.

On February 28 and March 1, 1981, Palmer-Ball, Barron, and Davy Chai went to Fulton County to collect fish for the University of Louisville. Only a few casual observations were made, but a large flock of migrant Vesper Sparrows (*Pooecetes gramineus*) and a flock of approximately 5,000 Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) were noteworthy.

On April 9, 1981, Palmer-Ball made another collecting trip for fish with graduate students from the University of Louisville to the bottomlands of Hickman and Fulton Counties. Most striking on this date to a visitor from northern areas of Kentucky was the number of summer birds that had already arrived by that date. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilocus colubris*), a Common Yellowthroat, and two Little Blue Herons seemed very early, and Parula Warblers (*Parula americana*), Prothonotary Warblers, Yellow-throated Warblers (*Dendroica dominica*), White-eyed Vireos, and Yellow-throated Vireos (*Vireo flavifrons*) were already present in full force in the bottomland woods. Several species of shorebirds were also seen in wet fields.

On May 5 and 6, 1981, Palmer-Ball and Barron visited the Jackson Purchase purely for birding pleasure. Efforts were concentrated in areas adjacent to the Mississippi River, the BCWMA, and the Land Between the Lakes. A surprising array of birds was observed with 147 species recorded for the two days. Migrant flocks were very diverse and quite similar to ones that both of us were familiar with seeing in the Louisville area.

Waterbirds seen in Ballard, Carlisle, and Hickman Counties on May

5th, and in Fulton County and the Kentucky Lake area on May 6th are included in Table 1.

Neither Bell's Vireos nor Mississippi Kites had arrived as of May 6th.

The most surprising array of birds was found in the vicinity of Kentucky Dam where many gulls and terns were present. We observed an adult Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) feeding below the dam spillway with approximately fifty Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), one Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*), six Forster's Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), two Caspian Terns (*S. caspia*), and two Common Terns (*S. hirundo*) were all feeding in waters around the dam with most concentrated below the dam spillway. In addition, a flock of 38 breeding-plumaged Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) was observed just south of Interstate-24 at the Kentucky Dam exit.

From June 19-22, 1981, Palmer-Ball and Barron visited western Kentucky for the purpose of completing several Breeding Bird Surveys for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. These surveys were conducted in Henderson, Union, Webster, and Livingston Counties. In addition, we took a side trip to the purchase region on June 21.

Three Least Bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*) were observed in flight over sloughs on the BCWMA, a pair together on Beaverdam slough, and a single bird over Mitchell Lake. Mengel listed a July record for Ballard County, and it is not unlikely that this species is nesting on the many bodies of water to be found in this area. To our knowledge, this is the first summer record for the state since the early fifties.

Seven Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) were observed feeding at the north end of Mitchell Lake and at least six Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*), 15 Little Blue Herons, and 20 Great Blue Herons were also seen in the vicinity of the sloughs in Ballard County. It seemed probable that all of these species were nesting in the vicinity of the BCWMA.

Bell's Vireos were once again observed at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, but as last year, only males were seen. This year there were at least three territorial males on the management area.

At Turner's Landing on the BCWMA an adult Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) was observed as it flew down the Ohio River at midstream. This bird had a complete black hood and all dark primaries as well as the dusky underwing pattern (with all dark primaries) characteristic of this species. Interestingly, this bird kept up a steady pace downstream the entire time we watched, disappearing out of view within five minutes.

On August 30, 1981, Palmer-Ball and Diane Ebel visited the Mississippi floodplain portion of Hickman and Fulton Counties and the BCWMA.

At least twelve Mississippi Kites were observed in a loose flock along the levee just north of the Tennessee line as they hawked for insects. Large dragonflies and cicadas appeared to be the major prey items. These birds would course back and forth over the cottonwood trees at an altitude of about 150 feet, suddenly veer and drop below the treeline in an instant, catch the insects in their talons, and rise back up to treetop level where they proceeded to devour the meal on the wing. Holding the prey in one talon, the birds would reach back with their bills and dissect the insect, picking out the best portions, circling the entire time. An afternoon of watching these magnificent birds makes any trip to this area well worth the effort.

A list of waterbirds observed on the BCWMA, almost all of which were seen at the pooled area below Dam #53 on the Ohio River described by Gray, is included in Table 1.

Of the 150 Little Blue Herons listed, 137 were tallied by actual count as they passed over Mitchell Lake at sunset. All of the birds were moving south in small groups. It was interesting that about three-quarters of the birds were immatures in contrast to the entirely adult (with a few calicos) population noted by Jackie Elmore in May (1981, *Ky. Warbler* 57: 55). This change in ratio would seem to indicate breeding in the vicinity of the birds' feeding grounds on the management area. It was extremely difficult to census the herons of the management area in summer because so many of the birds were probably missed as they fed on inaccessible sloughs out of sight. It was also hard to decide how many birds were missed at sunset since upon our arrival birds were already going over and still others may have been feeding south of the observation point. Nevertheless, this population is easily the largest in our state and should be watched closely.

On October 3 and 4, 1981, Palmer-Ball and Barron visited the Mississippi floodplain and the BCWMA after the K.O.S. fall meeting at Kentucky Lake. A surprising total of 119 species was recorded for the three-day weekend trip.

Approximately 15 Little Blue Herons were still present at the BCWMA on October 4th. A complete list of waterbirds is included in Table 1.

The highlight of this trip was the sighting of three Long-billed Dowitchers (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). The first observation was of a single bird feeding with a mixed group of shorebirds, mostly peeps, on mudflats of the Mississippi River in Carlisle County. This individual was flushed several times, giving its characteristic long "e" calls each time. Later in the day a pair of dowitchers was observed as they fed with a mixed shorebird flock on Mitchell Lake on the BCWMA. One of these birds gave a single long "e" note several times per minute as they probed in the mud, but both called loudly when they took wing with several Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) in the early evening.

In both instances we studied the field marks before the birds called and mutually agreed that all three birds could not have been identified to species for certainty. In fact, nothing made these birds noticeably "Long-billed" in any way except for their call notes and their presence so late in the shorebird season.

Some Long-billed Dowitchers are identifiable by the length of their bill, but all plumage colors and patterns should be regarded as supplementary field characters. These Long-billed Dowitchers were as gray and unbarred as many Short-billed Dowitchers (*L. griseus*) we have seen in other years.

It is entirely possible that most (if not all) dowitchers that are still in Kentucky in October or later are Long-billed. We suggest that all birds not identified by call notes be regarded as dowitcher sp. Once observers become familiar with the call notes, virtually all dowitchers encountered can be positively identified to species.

We suggest the following guidelines as useful aids to identification of dowitchers in the field. The call of the Long-billed Dowitcher may be a single note or a short series of notes when alarmed, but always contains the long "e" sound as the predominant portion that can be heard. The Short-billed Dowitcher's call notes are always more staccato, sometimes a single note, but many times are doubled or tripled into a short series of

guttural notes described as "tu-tu-tu", the predominant sound that is heard being the short "u" sound (as in tug). When excited (perhaps by a persistent or over-zealous birder) the Short-billed Dowitcher's call notes can become somewhat of a shriek and thus sound higher pitched and more like that of the Long-billed Dowitcher's. The best way to identify the species is to wait for one to call on its own, or flush the birds "gently".

TABLE 1

Summary of waterbirds seen on trips to western Kentucky

	Hickman Co. Lake #9 8-23-80	BCWMA 8-23-80	Hickman Car., Bal. 5-5-81	Ky. Lake Ful. Co. 5-6-81	BCWMA 8-30-81	Jackson Purchase 10-3-81 & 10-4-81
Great Blue Heron	2	30+	6	12	20	50
Green Heron	0	10	6	6	6	2
Little Blue Heron	0	30	4	0	150	15
Great Egret	0	1	0	0	4	1
B-cr. Night Heron	1	0	0	0	0	0
Yel-cr. N. Heron	0	0	1	1	0	0
American Bittern	0	0	2	0	0	0
Semipal. Plover	10	8	20	8	10	1
Killdeer	50+	150	75+	50+	30+	75+
Am. Golden Plover	0	0	0	1	0	0
Black-bel. Plover	0	0	0	0	1	0
Common Snipe	0	0	1	0	0	15
Spotted Sandpiper	5	4	3	4	6	2
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	12	10	0	0
Greater Yellowlegs	2	2	0	0	0	1
Lesser Yellowlegs	3	20	6	4	5	5
Pectoral Sandpiper	50	125	10	4	40	8
White-rumped S'piper	0	0	1	0	0	0
Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1	4
Least Sandpiper	75*	0	50	6	10	75
Dunlin	0	0	0	38	0	1
Short-b. Dowitcher	1	6	0	0	1	0
Long-b. Dowitcher	0	0	0	0	0	3
Stilt Sandpiper	5	18	0	0	5	0
Semipal. Sandpiper	25*	0	10	1	10	2
Western Sandpiper	150*	0	0	0	20	0
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	2
Peep sp.	0	50	0	0	0	10
Herring Gull	0	0	0	1	0	2
Ring-billed Gull	0	0	0	50	5	25
Franklin's Gull	0	0	0	1	0	0
Forster's Tern	0	0	0	6	0	0
Common Tern	0	0	0	2	0	0
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	2	0	0
Black Tern	0	1	0	0	1	0
Least Tern	6	0	0	0	3	0

* Sandpiper flock of approximately 250 birds was estimated as to numbers.

We have been unsuccessful in locating nesting colonies of Great Egrets, Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*), and Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*). The first three were last reported nesting in the state about 1950 and the latter has recently been found nesting on Lake Barkley, Trigg County (Thomas, 1982).

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- 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, Ky. 40222, and 201 York Street, Apt. 509, Louisville, Ky. 40203.

ED. NOTE: At the Fall K.O.S. meeting in 1968 George Ray described the nesting of the Least Bittern at Carpenter's Lake, and Frank Abrams showed photographs of the nest.

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1982

ANNE L. STAMM

June was cold; the temperature dipped to the fifties on 13 days. Precipitation in the Louisville area was slightly below normal. July averaged about normal for both rainfall and temperature. Violent storms lashed across Kentucky on June 8, with Henderson County being hardest hit. Trees and power lines were downed, causing much damage. A similar storm hit the Highland Section of Louisville on July 17 and uprooted trees. Walnuts were literally stripped from the trees and covered the ground in some locations. Tree-nesting species were probably affected by these storms.

This season the summer reports contained an encouraging amount of data on the actual breeding activities of the birds of the state. A survey of colonial wading birds received from Burline Pullin, T.V.A., added significant data. The Little Blue Heron again nested in Trigg County. Philip Mastrangelo reported a nest of the Barn Owl with five young. W. C. Alcock continued his on-going project on the Eastern Bluebird in Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge.

Other interesting records included a Brown-headed Cowbird fledged from the nest of a Carolina Wren—an uncommon victim. House Finches remained throughout the season at four locations in the Louisville area.

It was evident that some species were extending their range south-

westward. House Wrens were on the increase at Murray. The Henslow's Sparrow was found in Muhlenberg County in June, while the Song Sparrow, formerly a rare summer resident in Hopkins County, has become more visible in recent years. Interestingly enough, the Blue Grosbeak continued to extend its breeding range eastward to Barren, Warren, Larue and Pulaski counties and northward to Jefferson and Oldham counties.

*Heron*s—Three Great Blue Heron colonies were again found in western Kentucky (BP); five birds were seen at Goose Pond, Hopkins County, June 14 (JH); and both adult and immatures were seen along a creek at Springfield (JB) and one at the Falls of the Ohio, July 17 (FS, S). Green Heron were again nesting in Trigg County (BP); also present in northern Kentucky, but not as common as past years (LMc); and only small numbers observed in the Louisville area. A single Great Egret remained in the Falls of the Ohio area from May 28 through July 31 (LR, and others); one at Lentz's Pond, Louisville, June 27-July 4 (CG) and on July 27 (S, FS). A large colony of Black-crowned Night Herons was again nesting in Trigg County on June 9 (BP); also a fair number—at least 100 plus—at Falls of the Ohio (JEL, LR) and 71 immatures there on July 14 (LR) and an adult at Lentz's Pond, July 27 (S). Two Yellow-crowned Night Heron were seen at Falls of the Ohio, June 22 (JEL) and at least two nests were seen at Falls of the Ohio, June 22 (JEL) and at least two nests were found in Lexington (DC), where it has nested in recent years.

Waterfowl—At least five pair of Canada Geese nested at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville—these were feral birds (MS). Four Black Ducks were seen at the Falls of the Ohio on July 27 (FS, S). A male Ring-necked Duck, above McAlpine Dam on July 5, was unusual, also observed there July 27 (S, FS). A female Wood Duck with nine young was seen on May 8 in Boone County (LMc).

Raptors—A flock of ten Turkey Vultures on June 6 in Henry County was of interest (S, FS) as were the seven near Somerset, July 14 (JEL). Few hawks were reported: a Sharp-shinned Hawk at Eubank, July 8, was noteworthy (JEL). A Cooper's Hawk nest, with three young, was found at Big Pond Sanctuary, Falls of the Rough area (KC). A few Red-shouldered Hawks were reported, but no actual nest records were received. A single Broad-winged Hawk was seen at Fort Wright, June 27 (EG) and may have nested there; small numbers were recorded on their "nesting grounds" in the spring at Danville (FL). An interesting incident occurred in Muhlenberg County on June 12 when a female Marsh Hawk was noted "mobbing" two Turkey Vultures (AB, BPB). The American Kestrel seemed to be doing well; nesting reported at Fort Wright (EG) and at Springfield (JB) and were "more evident" than in recent years at Hamlin (J. Erwin *vide* CP).

Bobwhite through Coots—Bobwhite were recorded in good numbers on the Breckenridge and Hardin counties Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter BBS—BM) and "up" on the Greenup and Carter surveys (FB), but were down, from last year, on the Henry County survey (S), and found in low numbers at Springfield, where they have not recovered from the severe winters of several years ago (JB). A King Rail in the vegetation near the dike at the Falls of the Ohio, July 18, was remarkable (JB).

A few American Coots were late stragglers: three at Goose Pond, Hopkins County, June 14 (JH); one at Danville on July 1 (FL).

Shorebirds — In northern Kentucky the habitat for shorebirds seemed to be "lacking" and therefore no unusual species were sighted. (LMc); and although a part of the rock ledge at the Falls of the Ohio was dry, the majority of the birds arrived on schedule but in small numbers. Five American Golden Plover arrived early at the Falls on July 28 (LR) and two Black-bellied Plovers were seen there the same day (LR). A few Spotted Sandpipers were noted at The Falls of the Ohio on July 17 and 29 (S, FS); and two together at Danville, July 3, perhaps a breeding pair (FL). Earliest returns of the Lesser Yellowlegs occurred on July 18 when two were seen at the Falls of the Ohio (JG, JP), numbers increased to eight on July 29 (S); two Greater Yellowlegs were there on July 21 (LR) and 29 (S). A single Pectoral Sandpiper was observed at the Falls of the Ohio, July 27 (FS, S), but eight were there on July 29 (LR, S, FS) — later than normal for arrival dates. A single Baird's Sandpiper was noted at the Falls, July 27 and two there July 29 (S, FS) and one at the latter date at Wave Rock (LR). Three "peeps" were reported at the Falls on June 28, but were too far away to identify (AB), but three Least Sandpipers were observed at the Crescent Hill Reservoir, July 9 (S) and six at the Falls, July 29 (S, FS). A Stilt Sandpiper at Wave Rock, July 29, was the only one reported; two Semipalmated Sandpipers were also there on the same date (LR). There was virtually no shorebird habitat during the period at Kentucky and Barkley Lakes (MM).

Gulls and Terns — A single Ring-billed Gull frequented the Falls of the Ohio from July 7-31 (LR), and was also observed on July 17 (S, FS) and on July 18 (JG). The only Forester's Tern reported came from McAlpine Dam, July 24 (LR). A Least Tern below McAlpine Dam, July 14, was an interesting record (LR). Two Caspian Terns at the Falls of the Ohio, July 5, were unusually early (S, FS). The only Black Terns reported were two on Kentucky Lake, June 12 (CM).

Doves through Woodpeckers — It was a good year for Mourning Doves—species nested both on the ground and in trees. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was not as numerous at Springfield (JB) and Louisville (S) as in past years, but more common than ever at Fort Wright (EG). A Barn Owl nest with five young, May 19, at Richmond, was a significant find. The birds were in the attic of a house and were banded (PM). The Chuck-will's-widow was thought to be decreasing in Trigg County (Ed Ray *vide* CP), but doing well in Calloway County (CP); and at least six were present in the Radcliff-Fort Knox area from June 1 through June 30 (JG). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were scarce in some areas, but were observed in "greater numbers" than in recent summers in the Burlington area (LMc); several in the Madisonville area June 17-July 1 (JH); also several pair at Falls of Rough (KC). The nest of a Belted Kingfisher, with young, at Prospect, Jefferson County, June 12, was of special interest since dated observations for this area are few (JK). Red-headed Woodpeckers were found in "excellent" numbers in various places in Boone County (LMc); two pair nested on a farm in Centerfield (CG); and were breeding at a few locations in the Louisville area (S, m. ob.).

Flycatchers through Swallows—Eastern Kingbirds seemed to be doing well. The Great Crested Flycatcher was found in good numbers in the Fort Knox area (JG), but numbers were low in the Louisville area (S). The Eastern Phoebe was stable at Burlington (LMc), up over 100% on the Greenup County BBS (FB); good numbers at Fort Knox (JG), but fewer were found nesting under bridges in the Louisville area (S). A Willow Flycatcher was identified by its song at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, on June 17 (JH). A pair of Tree Swallows nested again at Long Run State Park (S, FS). A small colony (10-15 active nests) of Bank Swallows was again present in a gravel pit in western Boone County (LMc). About 12 pair of Rough-winged Swallows were found nesting in crevices of a road-cut in Henry County, June 5-6 (S, FS); also in a creek bank at Springfield (JB). The Cliff Swallows continued to make news by spreading over the state: a new colony at Almo, over Clark River (CP); a flock of 24 nested again at Skeggs Creek Bridge, near Glasgow (RS); a small colony, probably 25+ near Knifley, Adair County, June 6 (JEL); and a few were reported in Wolfe County on the BBS (Robert Morris *vide* DC). Purple Martins appeared to be doing well in Louisville, Springfield and in northern Kentucky.

Wrens through Thrushes—The House Wren continued to spread its breeding range southwestward to Murray (CP); the population was "larger" at Fort Wright (EG); "up" at Danville (FL) and "abundant" at Fort Knox (JG). Only single Bewick's Wrens were reported from Calloway (CP) and Hopkins County (JH). An interesting observation was that of a Carolina Wren feeding three of her own nestlings and one of the Brown-headed Cowbird on June 25, Louisville (AM). All reports indicated the Carolina Wren making an upward climb (m. ob.). Also, Eastern Bluebirds were making a good comeback, even more so than the Carolina Wren (m. ob.); about 45 pair on the Fort Knox Reservation (JG); and 43 young raised in 11 of the 16 erected nest boxes at Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge (WA). A double nest of the American Robin was discovered in the Valley Station area and worthy of record (*vide* DS).

Waxwing through Shrikes—Although the Cedar Waxwing was "virtually absent" in Boone County compared to 1981 (LMc), they were recorded on several BBS in central Kentucky (BM, LS); and also one at Danville, June 12, where it may have nested (FL). The Loggerhead Shrike was seen feeding young at Murray during late July and was thought to be increasing in Calloway and Trigg counties (CP).

Vireos through Warblers—Warbling Vireo nests were reported at Springfield and at Louisville (JB, S, respectively), but numbers seemed to be lower than in previous years in central Kentucky. Red-eyed Vireos were down slightly from 1981 on the BBS in Carter County (FB). Blue-winged Warblers were common breeding birds in western Boone County, as were Parula Warblers, along Middle Creek Road (LMc); also recorded at Lock Mary, Hopkins County, where it is rare in summer (JH). The Cerulean Warbler seemed to be declining in Hopkins County (JH) and continued its recent trend of low numbers in northern Kentucky (LMc). The Yellow-throated Warbler was seen regularly in the Fort Knox Reservation (JG) and also in June in Hopkins County, where it is an uncommon summer resident (JH). The Pine Warbler was heard throughout

June near Mammoth Cave National Park and possibly nested there (WM). The Ovenbird was heard at Elk Creek Bottoms in Hopkins County, June 17, where it normally is very rare in summer (JH). The Yellow-breasted Chat showed decreases in numbers in Trigg, Calloway and Barren counties (CP, RS), and was not found in a few locations in Jefferson County where it previously nested (S).

Bobolinks—Only one or two pair of Bobolinks were found on their usual breeding ground (Goshen Farm) in Oldham County, where some agricultural changes were made; and three on Henry County BBS, June 6 (S). Orchard Orioles were considered "abundant" at Fort Knox Reservation (JG). Good numbers of Northern (Baltimore) Orioles were seen: nests were found at Fort Wright (EG), Long Run State Park (S), and building was observed in western Kentucky (S); also June records in Henry and Washington counties (S, JB, respectively). Six Scarlet Tanagers were found on June 24 at various locations in the Madisonville area (JH); and a male was observed feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird in Boone County (LMc).

Fringillidae—A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak on June 6 on the Demunbrun BBS was unusual (WM). Blue Grosbeaks continued to spread eastward in the state: reports came from at least nine counties from Calloway to Pulaski county and increases were noted particularly in central and southeast Kentucky (m. ob.). Indigo Buntings were thought to be "abundant" at Fort Wright (EG) and in McLean County (RI). No Dickcissels were found in the Danville area (FL); only one or two in the Louisville area in mid-June (S); a few in Oldham County, June 28 (AB); one in Henry County, June 6 (S); and numbers were on location in late May in Ballard, Fulton, and Hickman counties (m. ob.). A few House Finches were heard singing during June and early July in Creason Park (AB), and young were observed at a feeder, where the adults had been all spring at the edge of Cherokee Park (fide S); also at two other Louisville locations during the period (MS). A few Grasshopper Sparrows were found on the BBS in Shelby, Henry (S), Montgomery (fide DC), and Larue (LS) counties; with a slight decrease noted on the Breckinridge and Hardin counties BBS (BM); and a few observed in Muhlenberg County, June 13 (AB, BPB). Few observers mentioned the Henslow's Sparrow; however, a few were recorded on the Pleasureville BBS, June 7 (S); three birds in Oldham County, June 28 (AB); and two singing in a strip mine area in Muhlenberg County, June 13 (AB, BPB). The latter two birds extended the summer range southwestward. The Chipping Sparrow continued to be found in low numbers in the Louisville area (S), but was considered "abundant" at Fort Wright (EG). The Field Sparrow indicated downward trends in Calloway and Trigg Counties (CP). A Bachman's Sparrow on the BBS in Trigg County was reported (CP).

Fall migration reports (August, September, October and November) are due by December 7, 1982.

Contributors—W. C. Alcock (WA), Alan Barron (AB), John Barber (JB), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dennis Coskren (DC), Jackie Elmore (JEL), John Getgood (JG), Ed Groneman (EG), Caroline Gresham (CG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Alice Marion

(AM), Wayne Mason (WM), Charlotte Mathena (CM), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), James Pasikowski (JP), Burline Pullin et al (BP), Lene Rauth (LR), Mabel Slack (MS), Lawrence D. Smith (LS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Margaret Sullivan (MSu), Donald Summerfield (DS). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY FALL MEETING

October 1-3, 1982

The fifty-ninth Annual Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 1, 2, and 3. A total of 48 persons registered for the meeting.

President P. Allaire presided at the Friday evening meeting. Ginger Murphy presented an interesting discussion of her research of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in the Daniel Boone National Forest. Don Summerfield described a double nest of the American Robin. Vice-president Ferrell urged those present to consider participation in the Friday evening programs in future meetings. It was announced that Saturday field trips would include two trips to the possible roosting site of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, to be led by Ginger Murphy and Fred Busroe. The Friday evening meeting was followed by a social hour enjoyed by all.

On Saturday morning 30 members traveled to a nearby roosting site of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at 6:45 a.m. A bird was observed exiting from the cavity, but the light was so poor that the identity of the bird could not be made with certainty. The dense fog lifted later in the morning, and additional field trips were taken. The weather was excellent for the entire weekend, and the scenery was spectacular.

On Saturday afternoon 26 members gathered and viewed the Audubon film, *It Began With Birds*, shown by Dr. Ferrell. The Saturday evening program was presented by Dr. Fred Alsop, Biology professor at East Tennessee State University and consisted of excellent examples of Dr. Alsop's photography of birds in various parts of the world.

A brief business meeting followed the program and included the Treasurer's report, Editor's report, Nominating Committee report, and announcements concerning the Spring Meeting and Sunday morning field trips. The Nominating Committee reports was presented as follows:

President: Pierre Allaire

Vice-president: Blaine Ferrell

Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer: John Krull

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

New Councillors: Paul Sturm and James Williams

The candidates were duly elected. It was announced that the 1983 Spring Meeting would be held at Barren River State Park April 22 through 24. On Sunday individual and small-group field trips were made in the surrounding area. The total number of species recorded during the weekend was 71, an unusually low number. The weather was pleasant but very warm, perhaps slowing the movement of migrant species.

Respectfully submitted,
H. E. Shadowen
Acting Recording Secretary

BIRDS REPORTED ON FIELD TRIPS AT THE FALL MEETING AT CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

October 1-3, 1982

Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Ruffed Grouse, Spotted Sandpiper, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bil. Cuckoo, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Ruby-Crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Black-and-White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow. — Total species: 71.

ATTENDANCE AT THE K.D.S. 1982 FALL MEETING AT CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK

Members and guests who registered were:

ARY: Dr. and Mrs. Robert Sawyer

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jones, Wayne Mason, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes, Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen, Robert Wurster

BROWNSTON: Ginger Murphy

BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely

FRANKFORT: Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Jones

HAZARD: Dr. and Mrs. Donnie Spencer

JACKSON: Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire
 LEITCHFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson
 LEXINGTON: Robert Morris, Glenn Raleigh, Marie Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. James Williams
 LOUISVILLE: Richard Cassell, Mrs. Sue Henderson, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm
 MOREHEAD: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Busroe
 MURRAY: Paul Sturm
 OWENSBORO: Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson
 RICHMOND: Dr. Pete Thompson
 Valley Station: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield
 Williamsburg: Imogene Faulkner, Mrs. J. B. Mountjoy
 Dyersburg, Tennessee: Joel Bonnell, Kenneth Leggett
 Knoxville, Tennessee: Sylvia Britt

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
 KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 FALL 1982**

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance 1st National Bank of Louisville 10/1/81 \$ 130.45

Receipts:

Dues	\$2,096.00	
Fall Meeting 1982	522.00	
Spring Meeting 1982	112.00	
Interest Transfer on Endowment C.D.	326.31	
Sale of checklists, patches etc.	103.49	
Interest Income	355.44	
Donations	115.00	3,630.24
		<hr/>
		\$3,760.69

Disbursements:

Printing of <i>Kentucky Warbler</i>	2,313.22	
Fall Meeting 1981 (Banquet & Speaker)	459.02	
Spring Meeting 1982	36.01	
Postage & Bulk Mailing Permit	176.50	
Nature Conservancy Dues	10.00	
KY State Filing Fee	4.00	
Safe Deposit Box Rental	13.00	
Life Membership Transfer to Endowment (1)	75.00	
Transfer of Interest to Gordon Wilson	123.52	
Bank Service Charges	3.50	3,213.77

Cash Balance 1st National Bank		
as of September 30, 1982		<hr/>
		\$ 546.92

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in saving Future Federal 9/30/81	\$ 980.91	
Accumulated Interest on C.D. #13-14-660944	326.31	
Certificates of Deposit:	3,500.00	
2 @ 1,000.00 ea. Colonial Federal		
1 @ 1,500.00 Future Federal		
		<u>\$4,807.22</u>

Receipts:

Interest on Savings	\$ 58.21	
Life Membership (1)	75.00	
Interest on Certificates	356.84	490.05
		<u>\$5,297.27</u>

Disbursements:

Transfers of Interest to General Fund	558.23	558.23
		<u>\$4,739.04</u>

Certificates of Deposit	\$3,500.00	
Accumulation of Interest	124.92	
on C.D. 13-14-660944 9/30/81 to 9/30/82		
Balance in Savings Account Future Federal 9/30/82	1,114.12	
		<u>\$4,739.04</u>

GORDON WILSON FUND

Balance in Saving Account, Greater Louisville 9/30/81	\$ 238.40	
Certificates of Deposit (2 @ 1,000.00)	2,000.00	
Accumulated Interest on C.D. #11-11-20014 as of 9/30/81	56.06	

Receipts:

Interest on Savings Account (3 quarters)	10.88	
Interest on Certificates	211.72	222.60
		<u>\$2,517.06</u>

Certificates of Deposit (2 @ \$1,000.00)	\$2,000.00	
Balance in Savings Account as of 9/30/82	372.80	
Accumulated Interest on Certificate #11-11-20014 as of 9/30/82 ..	144.26	
BALANCE IN FUND	\$2,517.06	

BALANCE SHEET
as of September 30, 1982

Cash 1st National Bank, Louisville, KY.	\$ 546.92
Savings account Future Federal (Endowment Fund)	1,114.12
Savings account Greater Louisville (Gordon Wilson)	372.80
Certificates (2) @ \$1,000.00 ea. Colonial Federal (Endowment)	2,000.00
Certificate (1) @ \$1,000.00 ea. Colonial Federal (Gordon Wilson)	1,000.00
Certificate (1) @ \$1,500.00 ea. Future Federal (Endowment)	1,624.92
Certificate (1) & \$1,000.00 ea. Greater Louisville (Gordon Wilson)	1,144.26
<hr/>	
Total Assets	\$7,803.02
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Net Worth	\$7,803.02
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John Krull	
Treasurer	

THE REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

The treasurer's records, bank statements, certificates of deposit and other financial records of the Society were examined for the period October 1, 1981 through September 30, 1982. The examination confirms that receipts and disbursements have been correctly accounted for and bank balances are in agreement with the treasurer's statements.

Frederick W. Stamm

The editor expresses the thanks of the Kentucky Ornithological Society to Frederick W. Stamm who for many years has skillfully performed the thankless but essential task of Auditor.

FIELD NOTES

A DOUBLE NEST OF THE AMERICAN ROBIN

A double nest of the American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*) was observed on April 22, 1982, by C. S. Quinton, Louisville, Kentucky, 40272. Mr. Quinton, a railroader with an interest in birds, discovered the nest on the bracket behind the identification placard of a railroad tank car. The location of the tank car was a marshy, industrial area off Camp Ground Road in southwest Jefferson County.

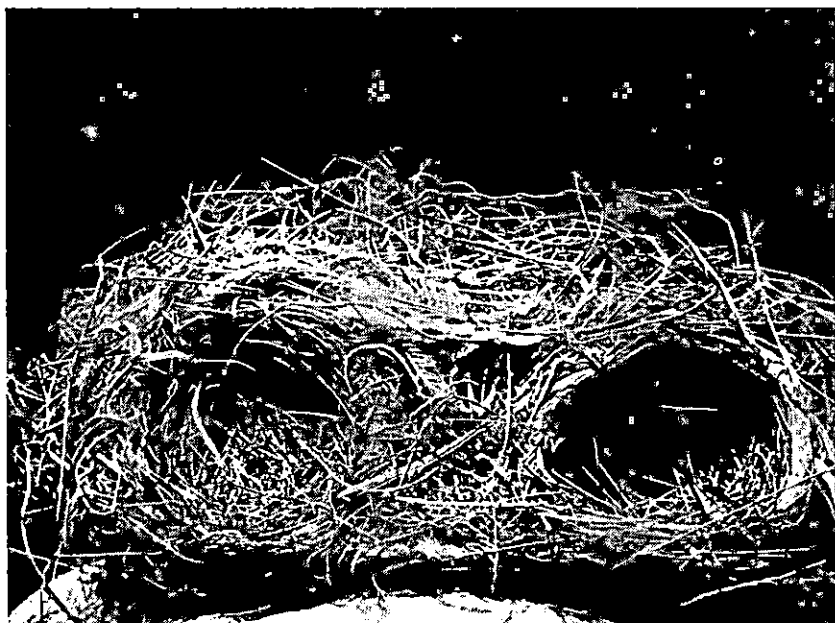
At the time of the observation, the tank car was in the process of being switched out of the area for routing to Texas. Mr. Quinton secured the nest and contacted Mrs. Frederick W. (Anne) Stamm, to advise her of the unusual find. At Mrs. Stamm's request, Mr. Quinton delivered the nest to me because I was the nearest Beckham Bird Club member to his home.

An inspection of the nest confirmed that it was truly double, consisting of two mud cups, lined with fine grass but of separate identity. The nests were intricately woven together of coarse grass and other closely related marsh vegetation. Many of the fibers ran from one cup to the other through the woven median area. The construction and materials appeared conventional. The unusual aspect was in the fabrication of materials that enclosed the two grass-lined, mud cups into a single double nest.

This double nest has been measured, photographed and turned over to the Biology Department of the University of Louisville.

A photograph of an apparently similar double nest to the one described is to be found in Richard Headstrom's *Birds' Nests: A Field Guide*, Ives Washburn, Inc., N.Y., N.Y., 1949, Plate No. 43. A comment accompanying the photograph indicates that through a lack of orientation, the robin became confused and constructed two nests.

—DONALD SUMMERFIELD, 9910 Prairie Drive, Louisville, Ky. 40272.



Photograph of the double Robin nest taken by Donald Summerfield.

COMMON GRACKLE KILLS CEDAR WAXWING

In 19 September 1982 an immature Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) was brought to me by two individuals who indicated that the young bird had failed to fly when they came upon it along a road in Richmond, Ky. Examination of the waxwing revealed no injuries so I banded the bird and took it to a semi-wooded area on the Eastern Ken-

tucky University campus. I threw the young waxwing into the air and it flew rather slowly in the direction of a small tree located about 15 meters away. After the waxwing had flown about half way to the tree, a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) flew down from a large Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*) and hit the waxwing with its feet, knocking the waxwing to the ground. The grackle immediately flew down to the waxwing and struck it several times with its bill. When I ran toward the grackle it flew off. However, the young waxwing was dead by the time I reached it. Examination revealed that the waxwing had been struck several times in and above both eyes. I picked up the waxwing and as I walked away the grackle returned and appeared to search for its kill.

There have been several reports of Common Grackles attacking other birds. The most frequent victims appear to be House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*), both young (Davis, Auk 61:139-140, 1944; Mayfield, Wilson Bull. 66:271, 1954) and adults (Mayfield, Wilson Bull. 66:271, 1954; Taylor, Auk 75:222-223, 1958). Townsend (In Bent, U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 211:408, 1958) indicated that American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) and the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) have also been attacked by grackles. Other species that have been recorded as victims of Common Grackles include the Dickcissel, *Spiza americana* (Baird and Smith, Wilson Bull. 77:195, 1965) and the Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* (Christoferson, Bird-Lore 29:119, 1927; Laporte, Wilson Bull. 86:477-478, 1974).

Baird and Smith (Wilson Bull. 77:195, 1965) indicated that it seemed improbable that a Common Grackle could successfully pursue and capture a healthy bird. My observation indicates that, on occasion, grackles are capable of capturing healthy birds. Such attacks, however, are probably limited to small birds.

—GARY RITCHISON, Department of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475

NEWS AND VIEWS

FROM THE LIVING BIRD TO THE LIVING BIRD QUARTERLY

In the summer of 1982 Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology began publication of *The Living Bird Quarterly* to replace *The Living Bird*. The new quarterly publication will feature articles and photographs on bird behavior, habitat, conservation, art and research, and will be international in scope. In addition to articles written by professional writers and ornithologists, the laboratory will encourage amateur birders to contribute. The quarterly will be sent to laboratory members and will replace its annual publication. The laboratory was founded in 1957 and is the only recognized institution of its kind in the world. More information on the quarterly and other activities of the laboratory can be obtained by writing: Laboratory of Ornithology, Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, NY 14850.

1982 MIDWINTER BIRD COUNT

Forms for the Midwinter Bird Count will be mailed out in November. If you desire to participate as a compiler and have not received the forms, please contact the Editor.